

Appln. Serial No. 09/730,588
Amendment dated June 27, 2003
Reply to Office Action of March 27, 2003

REMARKS

Claims 3 and 4 have been canceled without prejudice. Claim 1 has been amended in order to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the applicant's invention. Thus, claims 1 and 2 remain for consideration in this application.

Claims 1-4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Wang (USP 5,943,203).

Claims 3 and 4 have been cancelled without prejudice, and claim 1 has been amended to include the features of claim 3. More specifically, claim 1, as amended, requires the following:

...the control means monitors detection output from the outputting state detecting means **at each monitoring timing of the pulse-width modulation control signal's start time plus a fixed timed period being shorter than the fixed pulsed width, ...**(emphasis supplied).

Amended claim 1, a combination of claim 3 with claim 1, provides the above described features which is not disclosed in any of these cited references.

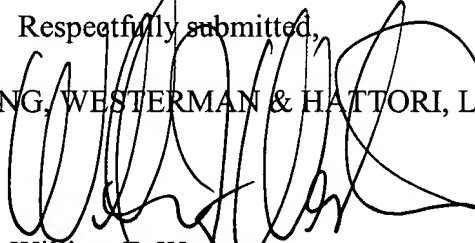
Wang discloses an electronic circuit breaker that is automatically reset only a limited number of times. After the limited number of resets, current is disabled, as described in column 11. On the other hand, the monitoring timing of the present invention, as described above, which is considerably shorter than a reset time of a breaker, can be more advantageous than the circuit breaker of Wang, thus, achieving a sure protection of the circuit. The above action of the monitoring timing of the pulse width modulation control signals, as illustrated in Fig. 2, can be compared with the prior art

Appln. Serial No. **09/730,588**
Amendment dated June 27, 2003
Reply to Office Action of March 27, 2003

of Fig. 4 in order to better understand the difference between claim 1 and **Wang**.

In view of the amendments to the claims, and the remarks set forth above, applicant submits that amended claim 1 is patentable over the Wang reference. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner withdraw the rejection, and allow present claims 1 and 2.

In the event that this paper is not timely filed, Applicant respectfully petitions for an appropriate extension of time. Please charge any fees for such an extension of time and any other fees which may be due with respect to this paper, to Deposit Account No. 01-2340.

Respectfully submitted,

ARMSTRONG, WESTERMAN & HATTORI, LLP
William F. Westerman
Attorney for Applicant
Reg. No. 29,988

WFW/meu

Atty. Docket No. **001613**
Suite 1000 - 1725 K Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20006
(202) 659-2930



23850

PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE